

Testimony of Eric W. Gjede
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Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, CT
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Testifying in opposition to SB 220 AAC The Inclusion Of Labor History In The Public School Curriculum

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am assistant counsel at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), which represents more than 10,000 large and small companies throughout the state of Connecticut.

CBIA is opposed to SB 220.

The business community has a vested interest in a quality education for all of Connecticut students. To ensure our students are well prepared to meet the workforce demands of a global 21st century economy, we must continue to close Connecticut's achievement gap and focus educational resources on core subjects. Given that the current public school curriculum teaches our students about the labor movement's contributions to American history, this bill would unnecessarily divert precious resources away from our efforts to close the achievement gap.

Unfortunately, there are some districts in the state where only one-third of students are performing at grade level in many, if not all, educational disciplines. To help correct this, it is vital that our students spend valuable class time focused on core curriculum. Thus, we must focus our educational resources to ensure that we continue to close Connecticut's achievement gap.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.